UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.9/1996/1
15 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Twenty-ninth session
26 February-1 March 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. General debate on national experience in population matters.

4. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development: reproductive rights and reproductive health.

5. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation in 1995;

   (b) Programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, the Commission on Population and Development shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

95-40419 (E) 201295 221295

/...

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1995/236, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

3. General debate on national experience in population matters

At its twenty-fifth session, the Commission concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate, during which views and national experiences in the area of population could be exchanged. That conclusion was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1989/170.

4. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development: reproductive rights and reproductive health

In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the revitalized Population Commission, which it renamed the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels, and would advise the Council thereon.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake the actions required to give full and effective support to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 10). The Assembly also requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action, and to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries (para. 22). The Assembly further requested the Council to consider the submission of recommendations to the Secretary-General on the establishment of an appropriate mechanism for inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 28 (c)).

In the new terms of reference of the Commission (E/1995/27, annex I, sect. I A), which were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission is called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of

the Programme of Action. In the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session, which was noted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action, (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. III). The topic for 1996 is "Reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication"; a report on that topic will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication (E/CN.9/1996/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes (E/CN.9/1996/3)

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1996/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1996/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1996/6)

5. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation in 1995

As noted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/236, the Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies; undertake biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; conduct studies on population and related development policies; prepare studies on interactions between population change and social, economic and environmental factors; carry out analyses of mortality; contribute to and coordinate in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; undertake studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increase public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; make the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and provide technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition, in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries face at present.

For its consideration of the above-mentioned activities, the Commission will have before it a report on progress achieved in the field of population since its twenty-eighth session.

(b) Programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997

In its resolution 45/253, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets. The plan was later revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214. The revised plan (A/47/6/Rev.1) includes a programme on population (programme 18), which serves as the legislative authority for United Nations activities under that heading; a reproduction of programme 18 will be before the Commission as a background document. The Commission will also have before it as a background document the programme of work on population for the biennium 1996-1997, as reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Fifth Committee, and as approved by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission noted that the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development would require that the Population Division involve itself in new work, such as elaborating reproductive health indicators and studying the interrelationship between migration and development, and the Commission recommended the strengthening of the Secretariat in the field of population from within existing resources in order to ensure adequate preparation and support for the activities of the Commission (see E/1995/27, annex I).

The Commission will have before it for discussion a note by the Secretary-General on the programme of work for 1996-1997, which will take into account the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development (see A/CONF.166/9) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (see A/CONF.177/20), as well as other relevant considerations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1995 (E/CN.9/1996/7)

Note by the Secretary-General on the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/CN.9/1996/8)

6. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that in paragraph 1 (j) of its resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, the Council urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies, and urged them to implement fully the decisions of the Council and Assembly on the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to the above-mentioned resolution, in which the Secretary-General recommends that (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and Assembly should be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and Assembly should continue to review the provisional agendas of their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and Assembly should also take into account the need to consolidate the items and documentation of their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to adopt urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and cycles of their meetings, and instructed them to report the measures adopted to the Council, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and Assembly.

In its decision 1983/163, the Council requested that, before decisions were adopted, the Secretary-General bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and requested that in order to rationalize documentation the Secretary-General draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas in which duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or in which opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission on Population and Development

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of each session.